



# Overcoming Obstacles to Achieving Your Goals

Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible ~ Tony Robbins

## 1. Putting your goals off until 'someday.'

- Create a clear plan with a timeline and change 'someday' to a definitive time frame.
  - Specific date | Certain year | Certain age
- *i.e. "I will complete a semester long study abroad experience in London during my junior year of college."*

## 2. Waiting to take action until you 'feel' ready.

- Taking action often results in emotions to follow.
- Once you get going on the goal, it is easier to keep up with the momentum.
- "Action is the foundational key to all success." – Pablo Picasso

## 3. Not anticipating the tough times.

- Brainstorm potential challenges and create a plan to overcome them.
- A plan builds confidence and defeats temptation to achieving your goals.
- *i.e. "I want to graduate in 4 years, but the class for my major is only offered early in the morning and I struggle to get up." "I will start going to bed earlier and ask a classmate if we can walk to class together."*

## 4. Viewing mistakes as failure.

- See mistakes as learning lessons and develop a plan to get back on track when mistakes happen.
- *i.e. "I missed the deadline on the class project. I will put all deadlines in my planner moving forward to remind me."*

## 5. Not making your goal a priority.

- Take steps each day towards your goals.
- *i.e. "I want to earn a B in Introduction to Psychology, so I will spend 10 minutes each day reviewing my notes or reading the textbook."*

## 6. Underestimating how hard it will be.

- Starting a goal can be easier than maintaining it over the long term.
- Continually remind yourself that achieving a goal takes time and is hard work.
- *i.e. "I lost 25 pounds, but now I must choose to eat healthy and exercise to maintain my weight."*

#### 7. Giving up before you see results.

- Avoid instant gratification and be patient with the process.
- *i.e. "I couldn't run a mile in 8 minutes a month ago, but because I kept with my training plan, I now achieved my goal."*

#### 8. Sabotaging yourself just before the finish line.

- Be real with yourself and pay attention to feelings or thoughts influencing your success.
- Reflect on goals in the past that had challenges and how you overcame the challenges.
- *i.e. "I earned a B on my first math exam, but this one I earned an F. I feel like I should give up and drop the class. I didn't go to the Math Help Center before this exam; I should use this resource again and see how the next exam goes."*

#### 9. Setting your sights too high.

- Set short-term goals that align with your long-term goal and celebrate the small successes.
- *i.e. "My long-term goal is to graduate with a 4 year degree." "My short-terms goals include: attending all of my classes each week, start studying for exams at least 5 days before, and meet with each of my professors during their office hours at least once a semester."*

#### Reference

Morin, A., (2016, July 26). How to overcome the 9 most common obstacles that prevent people from living their dreams. Retrieved from <https://www.inc.com/amy-morin/9-things-that-will-prevent-you-from-reaching-your-goals-and-how-to-avoid-those-c.html>